

CITY OF BALTIMORE

MARTIN O'MALLEY, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ozone Monitoring Re-Established in Baltimore City

BALTIMORE, MD (August 28, 2006)— Baltimore City Health Commissioner Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein announced today that the Maryland Department of the Environment has installed an ozone monitor in the city. The monitor, Baltimore's first since 2003, is located in facility run by the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks.

The ozone readings are now available at www.airnow.gov.

"I thank the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks for their cooperation in making this important public health data available to city residents," said Dr. Sharfstein. "The new data will also improve our ability to assess and respond to asthma and other respiratory diseases in Baltimore."

Ozone worsens asthma, bronchitis, and other diseases of the lungs. In addition, ozone exposure is associated with increased mortality. City residents can take precautions on high ozone days that reduce their exposure to air of poor quality and reduce their chance of illness.

"I am pleased that our Department is helping to provide city residents with important health information," said Connie Brown, Director of the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks.

City residents can also learn of ozone results by calling the state air quality hotline at (410) 537-3247. In the coming weeks, hourly ozone results will be posted at www.air-watch.net.

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